

Friday 5 April 2019

Disruptions in agricultural trade

Against a backdrop of increasingly chaotic international relations, the autumn 2019 edition of the *Farm Policy Journal* explores the current environment surrounding global agricultural trade. The articles in this edition point to the likelihood of trade frameworks continuing to evolve rapidly and to a certain extent unpredictably, and highlight the impact this could have on the Australian agricultural industry.

"Australian agriculture is trade dependent, and if the sector is to achieve the National Farmers' Federation target of \$100 billion of farmgate output this will largely occur as a result of export growth." said Richard Heath, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute.

"Yet there are many current disruptive factors to global trade which are impacting on the reliability of markets, and creating uncertainty in forecasting where export growth may be achieved."

Mr Heath noted that disruption in agricultural trade provides opportunity for the sector as well as threats, such as improved efficiency via technology adoption, the development of different markets and potentially entirely new trade categories.

"While there is much optimism about the prospects of growth, for Australian agriculture to capture the opportunities that will inevitably occur through such a period of change, the industry must be vigilant, ready to act and lose any sense of complacency that Australia's share of global markets is guaranteed," said Mr Heath.

Topics covered in the autumn Journal include China's Belt and Road Initiative, post-Brexit trade relationships, the role of innovation and technology, and key issues for two of Australia's biggest agricultural export sectors, grains and red meat. The Journal offers insights into the future of disruption in agricultural trade from a range of distinguished authors:

- **Tim Fischer AC**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister, on 'Post-Brexit options for Australian agricultural trade'.
- **James Fell**, ABARES, on 'The future of Chinese agricultural policy'.
- **Michael Every**, Rabobank, on 'A "Great Deal" of nonsense: why US-China trade numbers don't add up'.
- **Richard Heath**, AFI Executive Director, on 'China's Belt and Road: a game changer for global trade'.
- **Karen Caston and Anne Maree Weston**, from Austrade on 'Australia: the next global hub for Agriculture 4.0'.
- **Dr Bob Young**, Former Chief Economist and Deputy Director, American Farm Bureau Federation, on 'The changing trade positions of the United States'.
- **Dr Samuel Admassu**, AFI Research Officer, on 'The role of technology in improving food trade'.

(continued over page)

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 April 2019

Disruptions in agricultural trade (continued)

- **Professor Ross Kingwell**, AEGIC, UWA, and WA DPI, on 'Disruptive change in the international grain trade: implications for Australia'.
- **Patrick Hutchinson**, AMIC, on 'Bumps on the road to opportunity for red meat sector'.

Ends

www.farminstitute.org.au

Media Contacts:

Katie McRobert - 02 9690 1388 or 0477 758 257

Richard Heath - 02 9690 1388 or 0427 447 872